

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**Radnorshire
2012**

**Local and Environmental Services
Capital Budget 2012 -2015**

REPORT AUTHOR: Local Environment Area Manager

**SUBJECT: Elan Valley Bridges
(Highways, Transport, Amenity & Land Drainage)**

REPORT FOR: Information

1.0 Introduction

At the Radnorshire meeting of the 19th September 2012 Members asked for an update on bridges in the Elan Valley area. Work is currently progressing on two schemes as detailed below.

2.0 Elan Valley Suspension Bridge

The Elan Valley Suspension Bridge and adjacent Bailey Bridge located in the Elan Village are owned by the Elan Valley Trust, a charity set up to manage the Elan Valley Estate. The suspension bridge was closed in the mid-eighties following deterioration in its condition. The Bailey bridge was installed by the council and hired for a 12 month period. This was subsequently purchased by Welsh Water and has remained in place to date. The council have a limited liability in respect of the structure being responsible for the surfacing which carries the unclassified U1555.

The Trust over the years has explored various options for the removal of the Bailey bridge. In recent months the council has been assisting the Trust in the processes required to undertake the restoration of the suspension bridge and the removal of the temporary bridge.

The process is on-going.

3.0 Pont-ar-Elan Bridge

Pont-ar-Elan is a masonry arch bridge which was eventually closed in the late seventies after being weight restricted following a structural assessment that showed a deficiency in its load carrying capacity. A Bailey bridge was installed by the council on a new alignment and remains in place today. The Bailey bridge was only ever intended as a temporary measure and itself now showing signs of deterioration.

The scheme has been ranked and included in the forward capital programme for replacement. The provision of monies through the Welsh Government Borrowing Initiative has allowed the scheme to be accelerated with preliminary design being undertaken this financial year with construction works proposed in 2013/2014. The council is currently

consulting with the Elan Valley Trust who manages the Elan Valley Estate which the bridge is situated in.

The proposal is to replace the Bailey bridge with a new structure on the same alignment as this offers the better safety option than installing a new bridge on the old road alignment. The old masonry arch bridge would be demolished on completion of the scheme. However, the Trust have indicated they wish for the old bridge to remain in place because of its historical importance in connect with the estate. They have offered to accept future maintenance liability for the bridge thus removing any responsibility from the council. This is on the proviso that the bridge is brought up to an acceptable condition for transfer to the Trust.

The Trust also wishes to enhance the area around the two bridges to promote the area. They will undertake any works required.

Discussions are on-going with the Trust.

Contact Officer Names:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Antony Roberts	01597 826619	01597 826628	antony.roberts@powys.gov.uk